

MAT-3720US2

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: R. Imanaka
Serial No.: 09/631,540
Filed: August 3, 2000
FOR: SERVER APPARATUS,
SUBSCRIBER APPARATUS AND
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: Art Unit: 2711

: Examiner:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the patents and publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form 1449 are not required to be provided, because they were cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. 09/594,192, filed June 12, 2000, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

The enclosed references are not in the English language, but English abstracts thereof are attached to each copy of the reference submitted herewith.

No first Official Action has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed. No fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,



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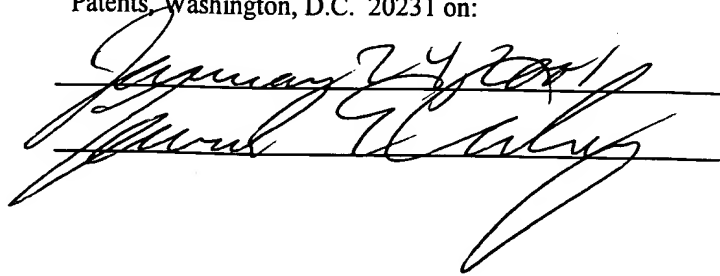
Encls.: PTO Form 1449

Dated: January 24, 2001

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:



January 24, 2001